
SUMMARY OF INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL; RESPONSE OF THE DESIGNATED STATE UNIT; AND EXPLANATIONS FOR REJECTION OF INPUT OR RECOMMENDATIONS **4.2(c)**

Vocational Rehabilitation continues to regularly seek the advice of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) on a number of issues including the state plan contents, consumer satisfaction, program goals and evaluation, policies, public education and building relationships with the business community.

The results of the client satisfaction survey for FFY 2007 showed 85% satisfaction with vocational rehabilitation services. The Council made no policy recommendations during this fiscal year, nor did their Annual Report include any specific recommendations based on the survey results. The satisfaction survey revised by the Council for FFY 2006 is still in effect.

The following recommendations were made by the Council throughout the year and after reviewing public comment from the state plan input meetings held in April 2008.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Recommend Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) continue to evaluate the new Supported Employment payment schedule that was implemented on October 1, 2007.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will do so.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Recommend VR continue working with high school Transition Teams and college staff to encourage students with severe disabilities to accumulate a variety of work experiences during the high school and college years. VR should consider developing and funding a pilot project which would assist individuals with goal related employment as they pursue their post secondary degree.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will continue working with Transitions Teams and college staff and will look at funding a pilot project. *Goal 4 Strategy 4.5* specifically addresses this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Recommend VR consider developing a separate, interactive website to provide informational materials about vocational rehabilitations for teens, young adults and parents.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will explore this possibility. *Goal 4, Strategy 4.6* specifically addresses this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Recommend VR review and possibly revise the current website to make it easier to navigate for individuals and employers seeking information regarding Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and is working with the designated state agency executive office and information technology staff to revise the website. To date a shorter URL was approved for use.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

Recommend VR staff expand potential referral sources to include Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, hospitals, rehab centers, and specific disability groups, and ensure printed materials are widely distributed to various agencies and referral sources.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will discuss this with regional administrators to ensure wide distribution of information to a variety of referral sources.

RECOMMENDATION 6:

Recommend VR staff continue to participate in public gatherings to include conferences, meetings, conventions, school events, etc.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will continue to do so.

RECOMMENDATION 7:

Recommend VR staff develop and maintain collaborative relationships with agencies that serve Veterans, New Americans, Native Americans, etc.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs. *Goal 3, Strategy 3.7* specifically addresses this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 8:

Recommend VR consider developing program materials that are culturally specific. Any materials developed for a specific population or ethnicity should have representatives from those groups in the development process.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and has developed written and video materials specific to American Indians. VR will also look into developing other population-specific or ethnicity-specific materials during FFY 2009.

RECOMMENDATION 9:

Recommend VR continue public education messages regarding employment services, business services, rural services, vision services, etc.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will implement Phase 3. *Goal 2* specifically addresses this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 10:

Recommend VR develop staff training and awareness regarding traumatic brain injury, employment, functional limitations, employment outcomes, etc.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and the Training Officer will incorporate these content areas into the state's training plan.

RECOMMENDATION 11:

Recommend VR consider funding a special project for individuals with traumatic brain injuries.

Response:

VR concurs and will work with the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee and other interested parties to explore funding a special project for individuals with traumatic brain injury.

RECOMMENDATION 12:

Recommend VR continue to focus on the comprehensive assessment component, and review and implement recommendations of the VR Assessment Work Group and/or other entities.

Response:

Vocational Rehabilitation concurs and will do so.